

## Cooperative Research Units

The Cooperative Research Units program is a unique model of cooperative partnerships among Federal and State Governments, academia, and the Wildlife Management Institute. These USGS partnerships are strong links to Federal and State resource management agencies.

Over the past three fiscal years, the Coop Unit program received budget increases totaling \$2.5 million. The funds were used to staff and support existing science vacancies, reducing the number of science vacancies from 20 in FY 1997 to only 2 in FY 2001. The USGS is requesting an increase of \$700,000 to fund the remaining science vacancies positions and provide additional support for the Units.

Filling these vacancies will enable the USGS to meet its commitment to its State and university partners in this cost-shared program. Full staffing will increase the breadth of technical expertise available to

State and Federal resource managers as they address current and emerging natural resource issues. It will increase the Coop Units' ability to respond to State and Federal information needs, and it will also provide more opportunities for USGS to partner with universities in training the next generation of natural resource professionals.

The Coop Units program consists of 39 Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units located on university campuses in 37 states. They provide scientific research for the understanding and management of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. They also provide technical assistance to natural resource managers in applying scientific information to natural resource policy and management.

Through affiliations with host universities, Unit scientists advise and

mentor more than 600 graduate students annually. More than 100 of these students received graduate degrees in FY 1999. The Unit program sponsors undergraduate and graduate education programs for minorities. These efforts focus on minority student recruitment and career training in natural resources at Grambling University, the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and the University of Arizona.

Each Coop Unit is staffed with two to five federal research scientists. Cooperating universities provide office space, administrative support, and access to university facilities. The State game and fish agencies provide base funding and logistical support for research activities. The support of all cooperators achieves a pooling of resources that provides a multiplier effect for everyone, enhancing the cost-effectiveness to each cooperator.

(Dollars in Thousands)	
Biological Research Cooperative Research Units	+\$ 700

As the nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the USGS works in cooperation with more than 2000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial, scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered in every state by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, contribute to sound economic and physical development of the nation's natural resources, and enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.